(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce the cancelled trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Gold Deposit in Karnataka

2941. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh deposits of gold have been detected in Chitradurga and Sandur districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to fully assess the extent of the gold deposits in and around these two districts, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI), through mineral investigations, has detected deposits of gold in Chitradurga (0.6 million tonnes) and grade of (4 gram/tonne). The Gold deposits have been established in G.R Halli, South Block, Chikkanahalli, Gonur-Kotemaradi, M.N. Halli, Kanchigana-halu and Honnemaradi. No gold prospect has been found in Sandur District of Karnataka.

(c) Assessment of Gold potential in Chitradurga district, Karnataka is a regular programme of mineral explcration of GSI.

Radio Station, Orissa

2942. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BRODCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the radio stations in Orissa which are broadcasting regional news at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure more coverage of news originating from different regions in the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the poor and inadequate visual content of regional news bulletins particularly from Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been constant demand to increase the visual content; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Cuttack Regional News of All India Radio in Orissa is broadcasting Regional News bulletins in Oriya. Sambalpur and Jeypore stations of AIR relay these news builetins while other stations in Orissa, including Local Radio Stations relay evening bulletins only for the benefit of listeners throuthout Orissa.

(b) To provide coverage of news originating from different regions, AIR has deployed staff correspondents part-time correspondets in various parts of Orissa.

(c) and (d). Adequate number of visuals from different regions of Orissa are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar. On an average, 12 to 15 visuals items, out of which 8 to 10 pertaining to Orissa are included in the daily regional news bulletin.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. There has been demand to increase the visual content. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to include more visuals in news bulletin. Every effort is made to include as many visuals as possible with the help of Doordarshan's own camera team, Stringers and ENG Unit available with the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Orissa.

Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka

2943. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Iron ore mines have been leased out to private sector in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of mines leased out to Private Sector, run by State Government, Union Government or any other Public Sector Unit;

(c) the production of iron ore in these mines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines three Iron ore mines in Bellary District were transferred by Mysore Minerals Ltd., a State Government Undertaking to M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Ltd. in 1985.

(c) The production of Iron Ore in these three mines during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production of Iron Ore (In Tonnes)		
1993-94	19111	2053	20158
1994-95	10691	3258	24197
1995-96	24589	900	1179